Ken Brooten 3/6/77 P.S.

There are several other matters I did not want to mention without first having discussed them with Jim Lesar. He is my lawyer and after he asked to be relieved of any relatoonship with James Earl Ray was directed to continue to purse Ray's rights by the sixth circuit court of appeals.

Please understand that I seek nothing for myself except time to do my own work. I have no book contract although I have come to the point where I will. I have had my second book on the King assassination two-thirds written since long before there was any committee. Other work has precluded my resumption of the writing of the draft.

If this committee is continued I will have nothing to do with it. As I said I will not give it my work. My position on this and what I regard as my rights predates the committee's existence. Aside from what you heard me tell Sprague when I did offer him this work this is recorded twice that I can recall on behalf of Mr. Downing. The first was about 9/15, on Dick Feeney's request. I presume in the committee's files now.

From long before there was any committee to now I have kept a low profile on this. I have made but a single request of a talk show. That was for the right to respond to a personal attack on me by Mark Lane. (In Los Angeles on 2/26, on the KABC Mike Jackson show he also called Congressman Gonzalez "vicious.") I have no desire for personal attention now. I will soon be 64 years old. I have had a health impairment and I do want to spend all the time I have on the work on which I have engaged.

Mr. Gonzalez has offered his resignation. To the best of my knowledge it has not been accepted. He thus remains the committee's chairman. If he should desire to take testimony from me that does not require the breaching of my confidential relationship with Ray as his investigator or that I waive my first-amendment rights, which I will not waive, I would bewilling to testify. I have in mind that while he is still chairman he might want to prefect the record of the committee's life and work, particularly as it relates to the chief counsel, my relationship and correspondence with him and his refusal to accept evidence that in my opinion is basic to the committee's work. I do believe I can go farthur and offer the opinion that it was essential to both the committee's work and its survival. Aside from my considerable work in this field I believe I qualify as an expert from prior employment as a Senate investigator, which included the preparation of hearings, and from having been an intelligence analyst.

Because of the committee's financial condition I would be content to waive a court reporter. I would be satisfied with a tape recording the chairman could have transcribed by anyone he considers competent. I would not now demand a transcript although at any later date convenient for the chairman I would want a transcript if it is made and the tape or a dub of it for deposit in the archive of all of my records on this subject that will be withing a university system. Because I seek nothing personal of this I would also undertake not to initiate any contact with the press over it. These to me are tragic events. While I believe that they are amply recorded in my own records my desire here is to provide the chairman with an opportunity, should he desire it, to make a record of the first-person testimony I can provide in the records of the Congress as my knowledge of what I regard as a national disaster is in the chairman's judgement relevant thereto.

Should the chairman, particularly because of the reports about his health, desire that this be an executive session, should he designate himself a subcommittee of one, this would me immaterial to me because my purposes are limited to offering him an opportunity to make a record of my knowledge relevant to what has happened to the committee. If he does not accept my offer I will have nothing to say about it. But I do not want any record I leave to be misleading. I therefore want the chairman to understand that from my personal experiences, observations and knowledge if Dick Sprague had taken his post and dictated his terms with the intent of wrecking this committee he could not have succeeded in just that better than he has.